

Bishop College, Marshall, Tex.

Charles H. Maxson, President

BISHOP COLLEGE, owned and conducted by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, was established in 1881, and chartered in 1882. In 1880, shortly before his death, Dr. Nathan Bishop, who had been corresponding secretary of the Society, 1874-1876, said, "I have \$10,000 to put into a school in Texas when the time shall come." After his death his widow carried out his intention by a gift of \$10,000, and in the fall of 1881, the first large brick building, Marston Hall, now a dormitory for boys, was completed, at a cost of \$15,500, and the college began its work under the presidency of Rev. S. W. Culver, M.A., who served for ten years, until 1891. Charles H. Maxson, the present incumbent, was elected president in 1907.

Dr. Bishop, who was a warm friend of the Negroes, revealed a purpose of his life when he said to a friend: "I have been blamed for giving so many thousands of dollars for the benefit of colored men; but I expect to stand side by side with these men on the Day of Judgment. Their Lord is my Lord. They and I are brethren; and I am determined to be prepared for that meeting."

"Seven Large Brick Buildings"

Bishop College is located on a campus of twenty-three acres, formerly parts of two estates, in one of the leading railroad towns of northeast Texas. There are seven large brick buildings, in addition to six others for the use of the school and the teachers. The property is valued at \$115,000, and the endowment fund amounts to \$12,000. In 1907, the total expenditure of all kinds was \$24,400. The students paid \$10,019 for board and \$2,700 for tuition. The American Baptist Home Mission Society appropriated \$7,075; the Slater Fund, \$1,500; and the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of Chicago, \$360. There were 334 students and 20 teachers enrolled in 1908, and 9 of the young men were in the theological department. The college is a co-educational institution. The number of male students is a little larger than the number of females.

There are ten departments in the work of the college: The regular college course, academy, normal, music, grammar, industrial, nurse-training, sewing, dressmaking and millinery, journalism, and theological. In connection with the theological department there is a ministers' special course. The announcement of the college says:

"Ministers may enter this course at any time and stay as long as they can. Even a few weeks thus spent will be of great value. This is not intended to be a short course in theology, but is rather a continuous New Era Institute, and is intended to be helpful to those who can spend even a short time, and desire to give chief attention to the Bible itself."

Ability and Consecration of the Teachers

Rev. Charles L. White, D.D., former president of Colby University, Waterville, Me., now assistant corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, visited, in October, 1908, the schools aided and operated by the Society. On his return he said, in speaking of Bishop and similar schools: "No one can visit these institutions and not be impressed with the ability and consecration of the teachers, the meager salaries which they patiently accept, and the need for pensioning those who have remained longest in the service."

"These southern colleges for the Negroes have always enjoyed the blessing of God, and their output has been an investment in family, institutional, and church life, while they have given hundreds of lawyers, physicians, nurses, mechanics, tradesmen, and ministers to their race. These institutions are fortunate in having as their Superintendent of Education Dr. Sale, who knows the Negro problem as few in the nation."

"It is significant to notice the steady introduction of industrial training along mechanical, electrical, and other lines, with plans for still greater enlargement, the ideal being the culture of the heart, the training of the hand, and the development of the mind, while the students are being instructed for civic leadership in the communities in which they will find their homes."

Bright Spots in the Negro Problem

"These schools and the churches are the bright spots in the Negro problem. There are, indeed, criminal blacks and criminal whites. Dissipation in certain forms of evil have brought forth much the same result in both races, as they will among any people. The future of the Negro depends upon the gospel of Christ reaching down through missionary endeavor to the people in their homes and business, and no surer way of accomplishing this end can be created than to push with renewed vigor the work of our schools which train young men and women for leadership among their own people."